

Serial No. 10/598,987

Amendments to the Drawings

None

Remarks

In this paper, Claim 1 has been amended to replace references to “means for driving” or “driving means” with structure, as well as to clarify the relationship of the latching lip, skid and plunger element. Applicants believe no new matter has been presented as these amendments are supported by the application text and drawings as originally filed.

Thus, Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, related to the “means for driving” or “driving means”. In response, and to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to remove the rejected means language and to recite structure for driving the drive member distally. Thus, amended Claim 1 is not believed to suffer from indefiniteness, and the rejection has been overcome.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 USC Section 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,599,272 to Hjertman, and Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hjertman ‘272. In response, Claim 1 as amended recites an apparatus, including a specific rack and pinion system, that is neither taught nor suggested by Hjertman ‘272. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 1 as amended is patentable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-4 and 6-11 that are dependent on Claim 1, are in fact patentable and are in condition for allowance, and it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If any extension of time or fees is required with this paper, such are hereby petitioned therefor and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 05-0840.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions if such would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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